



NEWSLETTER



District 8 January 2012

USDA Service Center
Website Address
www.fsa.usda.gov/mo

Barry County FSA
Cassville, MO 65625
417-847-2862

Barton County FSA
Lamar, MO 64759
417-682-3571

Bates County FSA
Butler, MO 64730
660-679-6112

Cass County FSA
Harrisonville, MO 64701
816-884-4432

Cedar County FSA
Stockton, MO 65785
417-276-4712

Dade County FSA
Greenfield, MO 65661
417-637-5991

Hickory County FSA
Hermitage, MO 65668
417-745-6496

Jackson County FSA
Blue Springs, MO 64015
816-229-5113

Jasper County FSA
Carthage, MO 64836
417-358-8198

Lawrence County FSA
Mount Vernon, MO
65712
417-466-7107

Newton/ McDonald FSA
Neosho, MO 64850
417-451-1007

St. Clair County FSA
Osceola, MO 64776
417-646-8107

Vernon County FSA
Nevada, MO 64772
417-667-8137

FIVE MISSOURI COUNTIES QUALIFY FOR LIVESTOCK FORAGE DISASTER PROGRAM

There are five Missouri counties in which livestock producers may be eligible for benefits under FSA's Livestock Forage Disaster Program for forage grazing losses incurred during 2011. The five eligible Missouri counties are Barry, Jasper, McDonald, Newton and Stone.

To be eligible, the applicant must have purchased insurance coverage through FSA's Noninsured Crop Disaster Program (NAP), purchased coverage through FCIC Rainfall Index Policies, or meet the waiver requirements to be a Socially Disadvantaged, Limited Resource, or Beginning Farmer or Rancher. For more details on eligibility, please call your local Farm Service Agency.

The deadline for the LFP Program is January 31, 2012.

2012 DCP/ACRE SIGN-UP (YEARLY PAYMENTS)

2012 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) enrollment will begin Jan. 23, 2012 and will end June 1, 2012. All producers planting on **DCP base** acres must be identified on the DCP/ACRE contract and receive a proportionate share of DCP/ACRE payment for the farm.

Changes on the farm after enrolling June 1st in DCP/ACRE must be reported to your local FSA office such as: Ownership changes, Producer changes (Individuals and Entities) Change in crop shares arrangements.

NAP COVERAGE DEADLINES

Noninsured Crop Disaster applications are due at different times according to the crop being insured. Producers should apply for noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage using form CCC-471 (Application for coverage). Related service fee must be filed by the crop sales closing date. Contact your local FSA office for filing date for your crops. For most spring seeded crops, the sales closing date for Missouri is March 15th (which includes grass/clovers for grazing, seed or hay and pecans).

SUPPLEMENTAL REVENUE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SURE)

The sign-up for 2010 losses has begun and runs through **June 1, 2012**. The Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) provides benefits for farm revenue losses due to natural disasters that occurred in the crop year 2010. SURE is available to eligible producers with greater than 10% or 50% based on Secretarial determination. Contact your local office for more information.



CRP CONTRACTS EXPIRING IN 2012

Producers with contracts expiring in 2012 are reminded that in order to bid these acres during the next sign-up these acres **must be in cropland condition** at the time of the bid. There will be no additional time allowed to repair ditches or remove brush! If you intend to re-bid **these acres, get them cleaned up today.**

HIGHLY ERODIBLE LAND AND WETLAND CONSERVATION COMPLIANCE

Landowners and operators are reminded that in order to receive payments from USDA, compliance with Highly Erodible Land (HEL) and Wetland Conservation (WC) provisions are required. Farmers with HEL determined soils

are reminded of tillage, crop residue, and rotation requirements as specified per their conservation plan. **Producers are to notify the USDA Farm Service Agency prior to conducting land clearing or drainage projects to insure compliance.** Failure to obtain advance approval for any of these situations can result in the loss of eligibility and all Federal payments.

FARM STORAGE FACILITY LOAN PROGRAM

The Farm Storage Facility Loan (FSFL) program allows producers of eligible commodities to obtain low-interest financing to build or upgrade farm storage and handling facilities. The maximum principal amount of a loan through FSFL is \$500,000.

Participants are required to provide a minimum down payment of 15 percent, with CCC providing a loan for the remaining 85 percent of the net cost of the eligible storage facility and permanent drying and handling equipment. If a participant provides 20% or greater down payment, then the requirement for a severance agreement for loans under \$50,000 will be waived. Loan terms of 7, 10 or 12 years are available depending on the amount of the loan. Interest rates for each term rate may be different and are based on the rate which CCC borrows from the Treasury Department. Payments are available in the form of a partial disbursement and the remaining final disbursement. The partial disbursement will be available after a portion of the construction has been completed. The final fund disbursement will be made when all construction is completed. The maximum amount of the partial disbursement will be 50 percent of the projected and approved total loan amount not to exceed \$250,000. Applications for FSFL must be submitted to the FSA county office that maintains the farm's records. An FSFL must be approved before any site preparation or construction can begin. The following commodities are eligible for farm storage facility loans:



- Corn, grain sorghum, rice, soybeans, oats, peanuts, wheat, barley or minor oilseeds harvested as whole grain
- Corn, grain sorghum, wheat, oats or barley harvested as other-than-whole grain
- Pulse crops - lentils, small chickpeas and dry peas
- Hay
- Renewable biomass
- Fruits (including nuts) and vegetables - cold storage facilities
- Honey

For more information about FSFL, please visit your FSA county office or www.fsa.usda.gov.

REPORTING FARMING CHANGES

If you have sold or bought land, changed the way you do business (formed or changed a trust, partnership, corporation, etc.) or assumed operation of a new farm for 2012, please let us know so we can update our records to better serve you in the future.

We also need you to notify us of any address or banking changes.

FARM LOAN PROGRAMS

The Farm Service Agency is committed to providing family farmers with loans to meet their farm credit needs. If you are having trouble getting the credit you need for your farm, or regularly borrow from FSA, direct and guaranteed loans are currently available. Ask your lender about an FSA loan guarantee if you've had a setback and your lender is reluctant to extend or renew your loan. Farm ownership loans or farm operating loans may be obtained as direct loans for a maximum of up to \$300,000. Guaranteed loans have a maximum limit of \$1,214,000. This makes the maximum combination of direct and guaranteed loan indebtedness \$1,514,000. The one-time loan origination fee charged on FSA guaranteed farm ownership and operating loans has increased from 1 percent to 1.5 percent of the guaranteed portion of the loan, for loans obligated after October 1, 2011. To find out more about FSA loan programs, contact the county office staff.



BEGINNING AND LIMITED RESOURCE FARMERS

FSA assists beginning farmers and members of socially disadvantaged groups to finance agricultural enterprises. Under these designated farm loan programs, FSA can provide financing to eligible applicants through either direct or guaranteed loans. FSA defines a beginning farmer as a person who:

- Has operated a farm for not more than 10 years
- Will materially and substantially participate in the operation of the farm
- Agrees to participate in a loan assessment, borrower training and financial management program sponsored by FSA
- Does not own a farm in excess of 30 percent of the county's median size.

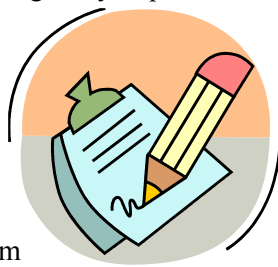
Additional program information, loan applications, and other materials are available at your local USDA Service Center. You may also visit www.fsa.usda.gov.

LOANS FOR THE SOCIALLY DISADVANTAGED

FSA has loan programs available to assist applicants to begin or continue in agriculture production. Loans are available for operating type loans and/or purchase or improve farms or ranches. While all qualified producers are eligible to apply for these loan programs, the FSA has provided targeted funding for members of Socially Disadvantaged groups. A socially disadvantaged applicant is one of a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic or gender prejudice because of his or her identity as members of a group. FSA loans are only available to applicants who meet all the eligibility requirements and are unable to obtain the needed credit elsewhere.

FSA SIGNATURE POLICY

Using the correct signature when doing business with FSA can save time and prevent a delay in program benefits. The following are FSA signature guidelines:



- Spouses may sign documents on behalf of each other for FSA and CCC programs in which either has an interest, unless written notification denying a spouse this authority has been provided to the county office
- Spouses shall not sign on behalf of each other as an authorized signatory for partnerships, joint ventures, corporations, or other similar entities
- Spouses shall not sign on behalf of each other on a CCC-931 Average Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) Certification and Consent to Disclosure of Tax Information
- Individual signatures are also required on certain Farm Loan Program and Farm Storage Facility Loan documents.

COMMODITY LOANS

Commodity loans, also referred to as Marketing Assistance Loans, are available to producers who share in the risk of producing the crop. To be eligible, you must maintain beneficial interest in the crop through the time of application. Commodity loans are short term loans limited to 9 months.

CUSTOMER STATEMENT

January signals the beginning of a new year, and a time to starting thinking about filing taxes. Producers who have signed up for a USDA eAuthentication Level 2 account will be able to access their farm data via their Customer Statement. The Customer Statement puts a range of USDA services and programs into a single report that's at your fingertips and available online, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. It allows USDA customers to view their participation, application and payment status in various commodity and conservation programs; information on farm loans; and conservation plan and land unit information.

HISPANIC AND WOMEN FARMERS

A process to resolve the claims of Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers who believe they were discriminated against when seeking USDA farm loans has been established. If you believe that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) improperly denied farm loan benefits to you between 1981 and 2000 because you are Hispanic, or because you are female, you may be eligible to apply for compensation.

For additional information contact:

Hispanic and Women Farmer Claims Process:
www.farmerclaims.gov or call 1-888-508-4429

Pigford – The Black Farmers Discrimination Litigation:
www.blackfarmcase.com or call 1-866-950-5547

Keepseagle - The Native American Farmers Class Action Settlement:
www.IndianFarmClass.com or call 1-888-233-5506

IRS Form 1099-G

Producers annually receive CCC-1099-Gs detailing payments producers have received from the Commodity Credit Corporation. The annual report of program payments on CCC-1099-Gs is a service intended to help our customers report taxable income. It is not intended to replace the producers' responsibilities to report income to IRS. FSA staff cannot interpret IRS regulations or advise producers about which payments to report on their income tax returns. However, county office staff can review payments for accuracy.



Selected Interest Rates for January 2012

Farm Operating Loans — Direct	1.50%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct	3.50%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.50%
Emergency Loans	3.75%
Farm Storage Facility Loans 7-year term	1.375%
Farm Storage Facility Loans 10-year term	2.000%
Farm Storage Facility Loans 12-year term	2.250%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	1.125%

Dates to Remember

January 23	2012 DCP Enrollment begins.
January 30	Signup ends for LFP and ELAP.
January 31	Deadline to apply for Unshorn Lamb Pelts Loan Deficiency Payment.
February 20	George Washington Birthday (observed) Holiday—FSA offices closed.
March 15	NAP Deadline.

USDA STREAMLINES COMMON ACREAGE REPORTING DATES

USDA recently established 15 common acreage reporting dates (ARDs) for farmers and ranchers who participate in Farm Service Agency (FSA) and Risk Management Agency (RMA) programs. The common reporting dates will simplify the reporting process for producers and reduce USDA operating costs by sharing similar data with participating agencies. Stay tuned for crop-specific information. **Note Changes** for the 2012 crop year involve **spring planted crops** (corn, milo soybeans) has moved to **July 15, 2012**.

FSA ADOPTING GOVDELIVERY

The USDA Farm Service Agency offices are moving toward a paperless operation. Producers are asked to enroll in the new GovDelivery system which will provide notices, newsletters and electronic reminders instead of a hard copy through the mail. FSA, like many other organizations, is trying to work smarter and be more efficient. Moving to electronic notifications via email will help conserve resources and save taxpayer dollars. County Committee ballots will continue to be mailed to all eligible producers. Producers can now subscribe to receive free e-mail updates by going to <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/subscribe>.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender. To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Stop 9410, Washington, DC 20250-9410, or call toll-free at (866) 632-9992 (English) or (800) 877-8339 (TDD) or (866) 377-8642 (English Federal-relay) or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish Federal-relay).